

## Message Text

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11  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SY-05 SCCT-01 IO-13 /088 W  
----- 082520

R 220500Z AUG 76  
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6028  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, KU  
SUBJECT: QABAS INTERVIEW OF ISTANBUL TERRORISTS AND  
TURKISH AUTHORITIES INVOLVED

1. ARABIC LANGUAGE AL-QABAS OF AUGUST 21 CARRIES INTERVIEW BY  
ISTANBUL CORRESPONDENT DARGHAM FAYDI WITH TWO PALESTINIAN  
TERRORISTS AND SEVERAL TURKISH AUTHORITIES INVOLVED IN ISTANBUL  
AIRPORT INCIDENT. EMBASSY EXCERPTS HEREWITH CERTAIN SALIENT  
POINTS THEREIN.

2. MORE TALKATIVE OF THE TWO TERRORISTS, IDENTIFIED AS MUHAMMAD  
RUSHEID HUSSAIN, RECALLS HIS UPBRINGING IN REFA' VILLAGE IN SINAI,  
AND CLAIMS THAT AFTER FIRST ASSOCIATING WITH PFLP IN BEIRUT, HE  
WAS SENT TO LIBYA WHERE HE MET ABU KHALID, THE MAN WHO PLANNED  
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THE OPERATION. HUSSAIN ASSERTS THAT HE AND HIS COMPANION, MEHDI

MUHAMMAD, HAD EVERYTHING THEY NEEDED WHEN THEY DEPARTED LIBYA -- WEAPONS, MONEY, PASSPORTS AND INSTRUCTIONS. THEY KNEW THAT IN ROME TRANSIT PASSENGERS ARE NOT SUBJECT TO CAREFUL SEARCH.

3. AFTER ARRIVING IN ISTANBUL AND HEARING THE EL AL FLIGHT CALLED, THEY PROCEEDED TO THROW HAND GRENADES AND FIRE WEAPONS AT THE "ZIONISTS" BOARDING THE AIRCRAFT. AFTER FIRST SALVOS, HOWEVER, THEY NOTICED THAT THE AIRPORT WAS BECOMING CROWDED WITH POLICE, AND BECAUSE THEIR MISSION WAS NOT TO FIGHT TURKS BUT TO KILL ZIONISTS IN REVENGE FOR THE ISRAELI KILLINGS AT ENTEBBE, HUSSAIN AND HIS FRIEND STOPPED FIRING. THEY ACCEPTED SURRENDER WITHOUT HESITATION BECAUSE THEY KNEW THEY HAD ALREADY SUCCEEDED IN THEIR MISSION. THEY NOW AWAIT "FAIR TRIAL" AS REVOLUTIONARIES DEFENDING A POLITICAL CAUSE.

4. DIRECTOR OF TURKISH GENERAL SECURITY ALLEGEDLY CONFIRMED TO QABAS REPORTER THAT PALESTINIANS HAD NOT FIRED ON TURKISH POLICE. HE NOTED THAT THE PALESTINIANS HAD ACCEPTED "UNCONDITIONAL" SURRENDER. THEY ARE TO BE TRIED UNDER ARTICLE 450 OF THE PENAL CODE. SECURITY OFFICIAL REPORTEDLY NOTES THAT IT WILL BE THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WHICH DECIDES WHETHER THEIR CRIME IS POLITICAL OR CRIMINAL. INTERVIEWER ALSO QUOTES TURKISH MINISTER OF INTERIOR AS SAYING THAT HE COULD ASSURE ALL THAT INCIDENT WOULD NOT BE REPEATED WITHIN TURKEY. HE NOTED THAT TWO DAYS AFTER THE ARRESTS, INTERIOR MINISTRY HAD RECEIVED ANONYMOUS PHONE CALL WARNING THAT THE TWO FEDAYEEN SHOULD BE RELEASED OR CONSEQUENCES WOULD HAVE TO BE FACED. MINISTER GIVES NO INDICATION THAT RELEASE IS LIKELY.

5. GOVERNOR OF ISTANBUL IS ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE PALESTINIANS CREATED A CRIME OF MURDER, AND THAT THE LAW IS EXPLICIT ON THESE MATTERS. THEY WILL BE TRIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW. QABAS REPORTER ENDS COLUMN WITH COMMENT THAT THE TRIAL WILL SEEMINGLY TAKE PLACE, ALTHOUGH MANY EXPECT A NEW TERRORIST OPERATION TO BE MOUNTED SOON TO SECURE RELEASE OF THE TWO. MAESTRONE

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